WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tissue acquisition device useful in retrieving tissue samples from a patient, comprising:

an inner cannula having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending between said proximal and distal ends, said inner cannula including a tubular sidewall, a main lumen extending along said longitudinal axis from said proximal end toward said distal end, and a cutout in said sidewall;

an outer cannula having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending between said proximal and distal ends, said outer cannula including a tubular sidewall, a main lumen extending along said longitudinal axis from said proximal end toward said distal end, and a cutout in said sidewall;

a passageway extending longitudinally along said device from said proximal end toward said distal end;

a cutting wire positioned in said passageway, said cutting wire having a proximal end and a distal end and being rotatable and longitudinally extendable in said passageway, said cutting wire including a cutting loop at a said distal end which extends out of said passageway;

wherein said inner cannula is positioned in said outer cannula main lumen with said inner cannula cutout positioned at the same longitudinal position as said outer cannula cutout.

2. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said inner cannula cutout and said outer cannula cutout are both radially and longitudinally aligned.

3. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said inner cannula cutout and said outer cannula cutout are substantially the same size and shape.

4. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein each of said inner cannula cutout and said outer cannula cutout include two longitudinally extending sidewalls, a proximal endwall, and a distal endwall, and wherein both said distal endwall and said proximal endwall are each substantially perpendicular to said sidewalls.

5. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising an end plug mounted at the distal ends of said inner cannula and said outer cannula.

6. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said end plug is mushroom-shaped, including a dome-shaped portion and a cylindrical portion.

7. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said end plug comprises a cutting wire extending distally from said end plug and separated from said end plug by a gap, said cutting wire including a connecting portion embedded in said end plug, extending proximally through said end plug, exiting said end plug cylindrical portion, and reentering said end plug cylindrical portion, said cutting wire including a free end opposite said connecting portion which is embedded in said end plug.

8. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said end plug comprises a cutting wire extending distally from said end plug and separated from said end plug by a gap, said cutting wire including a connecting portion embedded in said end plug, extending proximally through said end plug, and exiting said end plug proximally, said cutting wire including a free end opposite said connecting portion which is embedded in said end plug.

9. The tissue acquisition device in accordance with Claim 8, wherein said inner cannula further comprises a conductor extending through said inner cannula sidewall from said proximal end to said distal end, said conductor having a distal end in electrical contact with said end plug cutting wire.